

THE HAITIAN PEOPLE

248

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701

[703]

and being the personal property of the monarch and recipients of his royal favor, were to constitute the perpetual support of his throne. Only four thousand of these compulsory immigrants came, but Christophe made them into very effective companies of police, whom he named the Royal Dahomets from the country of their origin. They performed the duties of a gendarmerie in all the districts of the North, drove the cultivators to their labors, watched over property and the security of the proprietors, and maintained industry and a strict subordination among all ranks of people in the kingdom.

Christophe's regular troops were well clothed and armed. They were kept under stern discipline, no mercy or relaxation being shown them; delinquency on their part brought flagellation or a military execution. The troops received only a nominal stipend, and each soldier was required to gain his subsistence by cultivating a few acres of ground allotted to him out of the national domain. The usual quarter of this income had, of course, to be turned over as a tax to the state. Although the King's power was maintained by soldiers, he never coddled them. "The soldiers of the army as well as the laborers of the plantations lived in perpetual dread of the rod of authority," wrote Brown. "They seem to have developed a tradition of some special fetish power possessed by Christophe, a sort of *mana*, to use anthropological terminology. Even princes and dukes were chastised by the King's orders, and then made to do menial work by way of further punishment.

Conditions in the republic of Pétion were similar and yet different—similar in that soldiers formed the support of the government, different in that Pétion did not rule by fear. Every individual man between 16 and 60, a few cultivators excepted, was required by law to be a soldier, either in the *corps solde* (regular troops of the line), or in the *corps non solde* (national guard). The former, both under Pétion and in the early days of Boyer, had about 40,000 men distributed in strong detachments in towns and communes all over the country. Their costume, instead of being neat, uniform, and daily inspected as with Christophe's army, was ragged and mismatched; they managed according to popular parlance "to find linen on every hedge." They were paid from fifty cents to a dollar a month, according to the existing solvency or exigency of the state. Each week end a parade and review was held, and then a small fatigue party was taken to do actual duty, the others being dismissed until the next